

Message Text

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USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, SOPN

SUBJECT: MEDIA COMMENT ON RFE

SUMMARY: AN OPORTO DAILY NEWSPAPER OF SEPT 8 REPRINTED FROM A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER A COLUMN WHICH PROPOSES TAKING OVER RFE TRANSMITTERS AND USING THEM FOR BROADCASTS TO PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A PAGE DEVOTED TO REPRINTS OF ARTICLES ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, THE SEPT 8 "JORNAL DE NOTICIAS," A STATE-FINANCED OPORTO NEWSPAPER WHICH MAINTAINS SOME LEFTIST TENDENCIES, REPRODUCED A COLUMN FROM THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "A FORJA." THIS WEEKLY PRESUMABLY IS INDEPENDENT, ALTHOUGH IT IS PUBLISHED IN A LISBON INDUSTRIAL SUBURBAN AREA WHICH IS NOTED FOR PRO-COMMUNIST SYMPATHIES.

2. HERewith TEXT OF THE ARTICLE, WHICH WAS HEADLINED, "VOICE OF THE CIA IN THE HEART OF THE RIBATEJO (REGION)":
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"NOT EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN

THE MIDDLE OF THE COLD WAR, AND WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF THE SALAZAR GOVERNMENT, MOUNTED IN THE HEART OF THE RIBATEJO, IN THE SALVATERRA AREA OF MAGOS, A POWERFUL TRANSMITTER STATION WHICH BROADCASTS AMERICAN PROPAGANDA TO THE COMMUNIST NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THESE INSTALLATIONS ARE VERY COMPLETE AND MODERN, AND ALLEGEDLY ARE LOCATED AS THEY ARE FOR GEOGRAPHICAL REASONS. IN FACT, IT SEEMS THAT BROADCAST CONDITIONS ARE QUITE GOOD IN THAT ZONE. ONE THING, NONETHELESS, MAY PERPLEX MANY GOOD PEOPLE AND THAT IS THIS: IF THIS OPERATION WAS DESIGNED FOR EASTERN EUROPE WHICH IS THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS AWAY, WHY WAS IT PLACED IN PORTUGAL?

"THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MOTIVE: THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS PUBLICITY AND REPRESSION ARM, THE CIA, SOUGHT PRECISELY A DOCILE COUNTRY WHERE THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT MAKE WAVES AND WHERE THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF AIDED THE PROJECT WITH OPEN ARMS.

"THAT COUNTRY, IT IS CERTAIN, WAS PORTUGAL. THIS HAPPENED EVEN WITH ALL OF THE DANGERS (THE INVOLVEMENT) COULD BRING. IF THERE WERE A WORLD WAR, AS AT TIMES IT SEEMED THERE COULD BE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THIS TRANSMISSION STATION WOULD BE (AND IS) A PRINCIPAL MILITARY OBJECTIVE. EVEN AFTER APRIL 25, THE TRUTH IS THAT EVERYTHING CONTINUED AS BEFORE AND PORTUGAL COLLABORATED IN PERMITTING A CERTAIN COUNTRY--THE UNITED STATES--TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THE ECONOMIC PRESSURE, HOWEVER, OF ALL OF THIS IN THE SALVATERRA AREA IS ENORMOUS. SOME 300 PERSONS WORK THERE, MANY OF THEM WITH ABOVE-AVERAGE SALARIES. TO SHUT DOWN ACTIVITIES THERE FORTHWITH IS NOT A SOLUTION WE CAN SUGGEST. ONE REASON IS THAT THE EQUIPMENT THERE (IT APPEARS THAT IT NOW BELONGS TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND PRESENTLY IS RENTED TO THE AMERICANS) IS WORTH MANY THOUSANDS OF CONTOS. WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERYTHING, EQUIPMENT AND STAFF, TO SET UP A BROADCAST FACILITY FOR THE EMIGRANTS? THE STRENGTH OF THE STATION COULD MAKE THIS FUNCTION POSSIBLE AND RESOLVE A PROBLEM WHICH IS NOT SO SIMPLE. BUT WHAT WE CANNOT DO IS TO PLAY THE AMERICANS' GAME*" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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